

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-01 /004 R

66611

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPE:JRTARRANT:LW

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPE:JRTARRANT

NEA/AFN:WWEISLOGEL

----- 030004

R 142304Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009100

FOLLOWING REPEAT ALGIERS 96 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ABU DHABI BAGHDAD CARACAS JAKARTA DOHA JIDDA
KUWAIT LAGOS QUITO TEHRAN TRIPOLI PARIS VIENNA LONDON

13 JANUARY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, AG

SUBJ: OPEC CONFERENCE

1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE AOUI
TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 10 THAT SPECIAL OPEC MEETING SCHEDULED
BE HELD ALGIERS JANUARY 24-25 WOULD BRING TOGETHER
FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTERS AS WELL AS OIL MINISTERS
OF OPEC STATES. OULD ROUIS, DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC
AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, CONFIRMED
THIS SAME DAY. HE SAID SOME OPEC COUNTRIES WILL BE
SENDING UP TO 3 MINISTERS WHILE OTHERS WILL ONLY BE
SENDING ONE OR TWO. HE ALSO SET DATES FOR OPEC MEETING
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AS JANUARY 24-27, OR 28.

2. WE SUSPECT THAT ALGERIAN CALL FOR NEW ECONOMIC ORDER WILL BE MAJOR THEME OF CONFERENCE AND THAT THERE WILL BE CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED ATTEMPT TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR COORDINATED THIRD WORLD POSITIONS ON WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES RELATED TO QUESTION LDC VERSUS DCS RELATIONS. OULD ROUIS EXPLAINED THAT AGENDA PRETTY WELL SET AT LAST VIENNA OPEC CONFERENCE AND WOULD INCLUDE OIL PRICES, OPEC/CONSUMER RELATIONS, OTHER COMMODITY POLICIES, RECYCLING OF PETRODOLLARS, AND FINANCING. OULD ROUIS DOUBTED GOLD REVALUATION WOULD BE A SEPARATE AGENDA TOPIC, BUTSAID COULD WELL BE DISCUSSED BY MINISTERS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ALGERIAN LOCAL NEWSPAPER DESCRIPTIONS OF EEC RECYCLING SCHEME AS "HOLD-UP OF CENTURY" WAS A "SEMI-OFFICIAL" GOA POSITION.

3. SPECIAL OPEC CONFERENCE IS SUPPOSED TO BE FIRST STEP TOWARDS SUMMIT OF OPEC CHIEFS OF STATE. OULD ROUIS SAID HE EXPECTED OPEC SUMMIT TO BE HELD TWO WEEKS AFTER OPEC MINISTERS MEETING I.E. JUST BEFORE OR JUST AFTER PREPARATORY MEETING FEBRUARY 15-18 OF GROUP OF 77 WHICH WILL BE CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF ENERGY ABDESSELAM IN ALGIERS IN PREPARATION LIMA CONFERENCE.

4. JANUARY 24 SPECIAL MEETING OF OPEC LIKELY TO BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ITS OWN SAKE ALONE WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS SUBSEQUENT OPEC SUMMIT. WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON ALGERIAN OR OPEC PLANS OTHER THAN THAT GIVEN ABOVE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY HAVE ABOUT CONFERENCE AND EXPECTATIONS OF HOST COUNTRIES REGARDING WHAT IS TO BE DISCUSSED. IN MEANTIME SUGGEST DEPARTMENT ALERT ITSELF TO LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS MEETING WILL PRODUCE FURTHER RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS WHICH WE WILL FIND UNHELPFUL.
PARKER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PETROLEUM, SUMMIT MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE009100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:JRTARRANT:LW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750015-0125
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750152/aaaabtuf.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPEC CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, AG, OPEC, (AOUFI, MAHFOUD), (ROUIS, OULD)
To: OECD PARIS EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006